

CITY OF FRESNO MUNICIPAL RESTORATION ZONE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Incentive Period?

Each Incentive Period runs according to the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. The initial Incentive Period is July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2021.

How do I know if my business is located in the MRZ?

If your business is located in the City limits and is south of McKinley and west of Peach, you are most likely in the MRZ. If you are unsure, go to our website, www.FresnoEZ.com and use our Incentive Zones Address Locator.

How do I know if my business qualifies as an Eligible New Business?

If you are a commercial, industrial, retail, or other legitimate business that on or after July 1, 2006 established a business location within the MRZ, you most likely qualify.

How do I know if my business qualifies as an Eligible Expanding Business?

If you are a commercial, industrial retail, or other legitimate business already located within the MRZ, who on or after July 1, 2006 expanded your physical facilities by at least 20 percent (based on useable square footage for business operations), OR have increased the number of employees filling full-time positions by at least 20 percent, you probably qualify.

What is an Eligible Business Property?

An Eligible Business Property is real property with the MRZ, which the new or expanding business occupies under either (a) an ownership interest, or (2) a long term lease (not less than five years), and which is properly zoned for, or for which the business holds a conditional use permit, that permits the physical business facilities on, and the business activities of the business on the real property.

If I moved my business from another city into the Fresno MRZ, would I qualify?

Yes! You would qualify as an Eligible New Business.

If I moved my existing business from another area of Fresno into the MRZ, would I still qualify?

Yes! You would qualify as an Eligible New Business.

I just found out about the benefits of the MRZ and I already paid full price for my building permit fees. Can I get a refund?

Yes! If you paid your fee between July 1, 2006 and the date of your application submission, you may obtain a retroactive refund. Simply contact the Economic Development Department for the forms you need.

I have an employee who lived in the MRZ when I first hired him, but he has since moved out. Am I still eligible for the hiring credit, or will I have to pay it back?

Yes, you are still eligible. This credit is based on the employee's address at the time of hire. It does not matter if they move out at a later date.

What if an employee who lived elsewhere when I hired him moved into the MRZ after hire? Would that employee qualify for the hiring credit?

No. The credit is based on the employee's address at the time of hire.

How do I apply for the MRZ?

After the Qualifying Event, each business must fill out an Application to Determine Eligibility. Then during the filing period – **October 1 through June 1** following the June 30 end of Incentive Period – apply for the specific refund(s) you're entitled to. Applications are available online at www.FresnoEz.com or at the Economic Development Department at 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3076.

I still have questions. Is there someone who can explain this to me in further detail?

Yes. E-mail Melodee Schwamb at Melodee.Schwamb@Fresno.gov or call (559) 621-8366.